



**Compendium to Drinking-Water Systems Regulation (170/03),
made under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002***

(based on regulation 170/03 as it read May 2, 2003)

PIBS 4413e

Index

Compendium to Drinking-Water Systems Regulation (170/03), made under the <i>Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002</i>	1
Index	2
Overview	4
Consultation on the Draft Regulation.....	4
How the Regulation Works	5
Section 1: Interpretation: General	5
Section 2: Interpretation: Ground Water Under Direct Influence of Surface Water	7
Section 3: Interpretation: Open Designated Facilities and Public Facilities.....	7
Section 4: Application.....	7
Section 5: Exemptions: Residential Systems	8
Section 6: Exemptions: Non-Residential Systems Connected to Other Systems.....	8
Section 7: Exemptions: Non-Residential Systems that Receive Transported Water.....	9
Section 8: Exemptions: Warning Notices for Systems and Users without Electricity, etc.9 Details Related to Warning Notices	10
Section 9: Exemptions from Approval Requirements of the Act (i.e., SDWA)	10
Section 10: Revocation of <i>Ontario Water Resources Act</i> (OWRA) Approvals for Non-Municipal Systems	10
Section 11: Annual Reports.....	11
Section 12: Information to Be Available.....	11
Section 13: Retention of Records.....	11
Section 14: Forms	11
Section 15: Purpose of Notice to Interested Authorities	12
Section 16: Commencement	12
SCHEDULES OF THE DRINKING-WATER SYSTEMS REGULATION	13
TREATMENT.....	13
POINT OF ENTRY TREATMENT	14
RELIEF FROM MINIMUM TREATMENT	14
OPERATIONAL CHECKS, SAMPLING AND TESTING - GENERAL	15
OPERATIONAL CHECKS	15
MICROBIOLOGICAL SAMPLING AND TESTING	16

CHEMICAL TESTING.....	16
ADVERSE TEST RESULTS.....	17
CORRECTIVE ACTION.....	17
WARNING NOTICE.....	18
ENGINEERS' REPORTS	18
ENGINEERING EVALUATION REPORTS.....	19
SUMMARY REPORTS FOR MUNICIPALITIES	19
INORGANIC PARAMETERS.....	19
ORGANIC PARAMETERS	20
ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS	21

Overview

This regulation – the **Drinking-Water Systems Regulation (170/03)** – is developed under the new *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* (SDWA).

The regulation combines existing requirements related to drinking-water systems that were part of O. Reg. 459/00 and O. Reg. 505/01 under the *Ontario Water Resources Act* (OWRA) with new requirements resulting from the SDWA and the recommendations of Justice O'Connor in Part One and Part Two of his *Report of the Walkerton Inquiry*.

The Regulation responds to the results of extensive consultations with key stakeholders and the public on the draft regulation as it was posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry, on O. Reg. 459/00 and O. Reg. 505/01, as well as on the new *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*.

This document starts by reviewing the process through which the Regulation was developed. The document then goes on to discuss how the Regulation is structured and discusses the individual sections of the Regulation. The commentary briefly highlights the significant aspects of the Regulation, focusing on new concepts and requirements or those that are important to having a clear understanding of the Regulation and how it works. Then the schedules that contain the detailed regulatory requirements that are specific to one or more categories of drinking-water systems are discussed.

A number of complementary regulations are also being implemented to support the introduction of the new regulatory framework for drinking water in Ontario. A brief content summary of these eight separate regulations is found at the end of this document.

This compendium is based on Ontario Regulation 170/03 as it read on May 2, 2003 – its date of filing under the *Regulations Act*. Like all regulations, please note that O. Reg. 170/03 may be amended from time to time, and that this compendium may not reflect those amendments. Readers are strongly advised to check the following website for the most up-to-date version of O. Reg. 170/03: www.e-laws.gov.on.ca.

Consultation on the Draft Regulation

This Regulation was posted as a draft regulation on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry and comments on the draft were received by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) between January 14, 2003, and March 15, 2003.

Many stakeholders chose to submit written comments on the form and content of the draft regulation. Comments were received from those in the municipal sector, non-municipal drinking-water system owners and users, small business people, the tourism and hospitality industry, as well as the public. These comments were taken into consideration by the Ministry in the development of the final Regulation.

How the Regulation Works

The regulation does not stand alone. It must be read in conjunction with the SDWA, and the following sections in particular:

- Section 11 – sets out duty to provide water that meets the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards
- Section 18 – sets out duty to report adverse test results
- Sections 31, 32, 34 to 39 – set out requirements for obtaining approvals for municipal systems
- Sections 52 to 61 – set out requirements for regulated non-municipal drinking-water systems to obtain an approval where applicable, including regulatory relief

For many of these sections, the SDWA sets out the basic requirements and the regulation provides more specific regulatory details.

There are 16 sections in the new **Drinking-Water Systems Regulation**. The first section contains the definitions of the key words used in the regulation. Additional interpretative provisions are found in the next two sections that relate specifically to a) ground water under the direct influence of surface water and b) open designated facilities and public facilities.

Section 4 sets out which schedules apply to which categories of drinking-water systems. The next five sections establish the conditions under which certain drinking-water systems may be exempt from certain regulatory requirements. The remaining sections set out requirements related to annual reports, retention of records, etc.

The regulation has 24 schedules that provide more detailed regulatory requirements that are applicable to one or more categories of drinking-water systems and, in some cases, to all categories of drinking-water systems.

Section 1: Interpretation: General

This section contains definitions of the key words that are used in the **Drinking-Water Systems Regulation**, including “certified operator” and “trained person”. Some important definitions used in the regulation are taken from the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, such as “major residential development”. Consistent with the SDWA, the use of this term in the Regulation refers to systems that serve six private residences or more.

The definition of “public facility” includes a list of public facilities to determine which small non-residential systems “serve the public” and are therefore subject to the regulation.

Importantly, this section defines the drinking-water systems to which the Regulation applies. These are:

CATEGORY OF DRINKING-WATER SYSTEM	DEFINITION
Large Municipal Residential System	A municipal drinking-water system that serves a major residential development and serves more than 100 private residences
Small Municipal Residential System	A municipal drinking-water system that serves a major residential development but serves fewer than 101 private residences
Large Municipal Non-Residential System	A municipal drinking-water system that does not serve a major residential development and is capable of supplying drinking water at a rate of more than 2.9 litres per second
Small Municipal Non-Residential System	A municipal drinking-water system that does not serve a major residential development, is not capable of supplying drinking water at a rate of more than 2.9 litres per second and serves a designated facility or a public facility
Non-Municipal Year-Round Residential System	A non-municipal drinking-water system that is not a seasonal system and serves a major residential development or a trailer park or campground that has more than five service connections
Non-Municipal Seasonal Residential System	A non-municipal drinking-water system that is a seasonal system and serves a major residential development or a trailer park or campground that has more than five service connections
Large Non-Municipal Non-Residential System	A non-municipal drinking-water system that is capable of supplying drinking water at a rate of more than 2.9 litres per second and does not serve a major residential development or a trailer park or campground that has more than five service connections
Small Non-Municipal Non-Residential System	A non-municipal drinking-water system that is not capable of supplying drinking water at a rate of more than 2.9 litres per second, serves a designated facility or public facility and does not serve a major residential development or a trailer park or campground that has more than five service connections

Section 2: Interpretation: Ground Water Under Direct Influence of Surface Water

This section deems certain systems to have a raw water supply that is ground water under the direct influence of surface water for the purposes of the Regulation. This is important because the Regulation treats systems that obtain water from such a source in exactly the same way as it treats systems that obtain water from a raw water supply which is surface water.

Section 3: Interpretation: Open Designated Facilities and Public Facilities

For purposes of the Regulation, this section defines when designated facilities and public facilities are “open”. For example, a public facility is considered open on any day unless those served by the facility are denied access to the facility during the entire day. A school, including a private school, is “open” on a day if programs for children under 18 years of age are held at any time during the day. Certain requirements in the regulation do not apply to these facilities when they are not open.

Section 4: Application

This section identifies the schedules that apply to the drinking-water systems that are covered by the **Drinking-Water Systems Regulation**. Once owners of a system determine the category of system that applies to their system, they can refer to this section to identify all schedules applicable to their system. Also, the Application section at the beginning of each schedule identifies the systems to which it applies.

Note, however, that there are some exemptions from certain requirements set out in these schedules that may apply to certain systems in specific instances. Details of these exemptions are provided in other sections of the Regulation (e.g., Sections 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9). **Section 4 must be read in the context of the entire Regulation.**

The following table shows the schedules that apply to each category of drinking-water system.

DRINKING-WATER SYSTEM	APPLICABLE SCHEDULES				
	Treatment	Operational Checks, Sampling & Testing	Adverse Test Results & Other Problems	Reports	Chemical Testing Parameters
Large municipal residential	1,4	6, 7, 10, 13	16, 17	20, 22	23, 24
Small municipal residential	1,4	6, 7, 11, 13	16, 18, 19	20, 22	23, 24
Large municipal non-residential	2, 3, 5	6, 8, 11, 13	16, 18, 19	21	23, 24
Small municipal non-residential	2, 3, 5	6, 9, 12, 14	16, 18, 19	21	23, 24
Non-municipal year-round residential	2, 5	6, 8, 11, 13	16, 18, 19	21	23, 24

DRINKING-WATER SYSTEM	APPLICABLE SCHEDULES				
	Treatment	Operational Checks, Sampling & Testing	Adverse Test Results & Other Problems	Reports	Chemical Testing Parameters
Non-municipal seasonal residential	2, 5	6, 9, 12, 14	16, 18, 19	21	23, 24
Large non-municipal non-residential	2, 3, 5	6, 8, 11, 13	16, 18, 19	21	23, 24
Small non-municipal non-residential	2, 3, 5	6, 9, 12, 15	16, 18, 19	21	23, 24

Section 5: Exemptions: Residential Systems

This section provides certain exemptions to various categories of residential drinking-water systems that are connected to another drinking-water system that is also subject to this regulation and provides disinfection. The types of connected systems that may qualify for this exemption include:

- Large municipal residential
- Small municipal residential
- Non-municipal year-round residential
- Non-municipal seasonal residential

For example, exemptions are provided to large or small municipal residential systems if they obtain all of their water from another large municipal or small municipal residential system. In these cases, certain parts of Schedules 1, 7, 10, 11 and 13 do not apply, while other parts of those schedules continue to apply.

In another example, non-municipal year-round residential systems are given exemptions from parts of Schedules 2, 8, 11 and 13 if they obtain all of their water from a drinking-water system covered by this Regulation that provides secondary disinfection in accordance with section 1-5 of Schedule 1 or 2-5 of Schedule 2.

Section 6: Exemptions: Non-Residential Systems Connected to Other Systems

In certain circumstances, a non-residential system that is connected to another system may be exempt from most requirements under this regulation. These circumstances include:

- when the connected system obtains all of its drinking water from another system that is subject to the Drinking-Water Systems Regulation; and
- when the drinking-water system which supplies the non-residential system provides secondary disinfection and the owner of the system from which the water is obtained

has agreed in writing to meet specific free chlorine residual or combined chlorine residual standards.

Section 7: Exemptions: Non-Residential Systems that Receive Transported Water

When a non-residential system is provided with water that is transported from another drinking-water system that provides secondary disinfection, the system that receives the water does not have to meet requirements set out in Schedules 2, 3, 8, 9 and 11 to 15.

However, owners of the non-residential systems that receive the transported water **must** take a distribution sample at least once a day and test for either the free chlorine residual or the combined chlorine residual, as appropriate.

Section 8: Exemptions: Warning Notices for Systems and Users without Electricity, etc.

The Regulation provides exemptions for some owners of specific types of drinking-water systems that post warning notices according to the requirements of this section. If the exemptions apply, full compliance with the regulation, including testing and treatment, is not required.

The regulatory exemptions are available to any system that does not use electricity and does not serve any buildings that use electricity. The Regulation provides these systems with the exemptions on a permanent basis if signs are posted in accordance with the regulation.

The regulatory exemptions are also available to small non-municipal non-residential systems using electricity that:

- do not serve a designated facility or any food premises that rely on the system for potable water as required under clause 20 (1) (a) of Regulation 562 under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.

An example of a system where the exemptions would apply is a system that only serves a small motel with no restaurant and where the owner has posted notices according to the regulatory requirements. The Regulation provides most of these systems with the exemptions only on a temporary basis, and the exemptions are phased out following 3 years after the treatment deadline which would have otherwise applied to the system if signs were not posted. The sunset dates for the phase-out are described in the regulation:

- Surface Water Systems: Sunset date is July 1, 2008
- Ground Water Systems: Sunset date is December 31, 2009

By the appropriate sunset date, systems must meet all the requirements of the **Drinking-Water Systems Regulation**, including testing and treatment requirements.

However, the sunset dates described above do not apply to a system that:

- only supplies water to a public washroom or shower; or
- only serves users that are exempt from the food premises regulation as described in clause 2 (1) (c) of Regulation 562 under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (e.g., some churches and service clubs).

The Regulation also provides these particular systems with the exemptions on a permanent basis if signs are posted in accordance with the regulation.

Details Related to Warning Notices

The warning notices must be legible and must clearly communicate to the user that the water has not been tested and treated for drinking purposes. These signs must be posted at every tap where it is likely to be noticed by users and a larger sign must be posted at every entrance to every building that is served by the system. The signs must also be in a format provided by or approved by the Director (refer to Section 14: Forms). All drinking-water fountains must also be rendered inoperative. The system owner must also have notified the Director in writing that these steps have been taken.

The owner of the drinking-water system must check the warning notices at least once per week to ensure they are legible and meet the requirements of this section of the regulation. These checks must be recorded and kept for at least five years.

Note that this section **does not** exempt anyone of any obligation to provide potable water that at a minimum meets the standards prescribed by the Ontario Drinking-Water Quality Standards Regulation.

Section 9: Exemptions from Approval Requirements of the Act (i.e., SDWA)

The Regulation exempts large municipal non-residential and small municipal non-residential systems from having to obtain an approval. The owner will be required to submit a statement of a professional engineer in accordance with Schedule 21 instead.

For large municipal residential systems and small municipal residential systems, the Regulation provides an exemption from obtaining an approval to undertake a number of specific minor activities (e.g., to establish, alter or change a service pipe) consistent with the exemptions from obtaining an approval under section 52 of the OWRA that were previously provided in O. Reg. 525/98.

Section 10: Revocation of *Ontario Water Resources Act* (OWRA) Approvals for Non-Municipal Systems

Because the SDWA marks the introduction of a new framework for drinking-water protection in Ontario, there are a number of transitional issues that arise. In this case, the Regulation itemizes when an approval granted under the *Ontario Water Resources Act* (OWRA) is revoked.

Section 11: Annual Reports

This section sets out the requirements with respect to an annual report that must be prepared by the owner of a drinking-water system and given to the Director, Ministry of the Environment.

All categories of drinking-water systems must prepare an annual report but there are different deadlines. For example, non-municipal seasonal residential systems must cover the period from November 1 of one year to October 31 of the following year in their annual report. These reports are due to the Director no later than December 31 of the latter year. However, small non-municipal non-residential systems must cover the period from April 1 to March 31 of the following year and provide a copy of the annual report to the Director by May 31 of the latter year.

The section provides a detailed outline of the required contents of annual reports. In addition, it sets out the requirements to make the report available to users and the public. Finally, it provides direction with respect to transitional issues related to annual reports as we move from the previous regulatory framework to the new framework under the SDWA and this Regulation, among others.

Section 12: Information to Be Available

This section sets out a number of requirements related to owners of drinking-water systems making information available. It identifies the types of information that must be made available (e.g., a copy of every test result obtained as a result of a requirement under this Regulation) and when the information must be available (e.g., during normal business hours without charge).

Transitional issues related to the move to a new regulatory framework are also dealt with.

Section 13: Retention of Records

This section identifies which records must be kept by the owner of a drinking-water system for at least five years (e.g., records of microbiological test results) and which must be kept for at least 15 years (e.g., records of chemical test results).

Section 14: Forms

This section provides the Director with the authority to establish the format for notices, reports or records that are required under this Regulation. This includes setting the format of or providing the warning notices that must be posted by owners of some drinking-water systems for regulatory exemptions to apply (refer to Section 8: Exemptions: Warning Notices for Systems and Users without Electricity, etc.). The authority of this section also extends to electronic formats.

Section 15: Purpose of Notice to Interested Authorities

This section clarifies that designated facilities are required to provide interested authorities with specific information under this Regulation in order to provide timely information on their compliance with this Regulation.

Section 16: Commencement

This regulation comes into force on June 1, 2003.

SCHEDULES OF THE DRINKING-WATER SYSTEMS REGULATION

The 24 schedules that are part of the **Drinking-Water Systems Regulation** contain the detailed regulatory requirements that are specific to one or more categories of drinking-water systems.

It is very important for owners and operators to know which category their water system belongs to (see Section 1 of the Regulation above). Each schedule begins by identifying all the categories of drinking-water systems to which its requirements apply. This means that there may be more than one schedule dealing with, for example, microbiological sampling and testing. Owners and operators must always be certain that they are referring to the correct schedule with the requirements appropriate to their type of system.

The following discussion briefly reviews out the schedules and their content, grouping them by primary subject, while also identifying the drinking-water systems to which they apply.

TREATMENT	<i>Applies to:</i>
Schedule 1: Treatment Equipment	Large Municipal Residential Small Municipal Residential
Schedule 2: Treatment Equipment	Large Municipal Non-Residential Small Municipal Non-Residential Non-Municipal Year-Round Residential Non-Municipal Seasonal Residential Large Non-Municipal Non-Residential Small Non-Municipal Non-Residential

These two schedules set out the minimum requirements for treatment equipment, the deadline by which the equipment must be installed, and the general requirements for the operation of the equipment. Generally the minimum treatment for ground water sources is disinfection and for surface water sources is filtration and disinfection. Under these schedules owners have the flexibility to use ultra-violet light or other alternative disinfection equipment if certain requirements are met. These schedules also set out transition provisions that stipulate how conflicts are resolved between the requirements of this regulation and approvals and orders issued under the OWRA.

POINT OF ENTRY TREATMENT	<i>Applies to:</i>
Schedule 3: Point of Entry Treatment	Large Municipal Non-Residential Small Municipal Non-Residential Large Non-Municipal Non-Residential Small Non-Municipal Non-Residential

This schedule provides an exemption from the requirement for secondary disinfection if a drinking-water system uses a point of entry treatment approach and also meets specific criteria.

RELIEF FROM MINIMUM TREATMENT	<i>Applies to:</i>
Schedule 4: Relief from Schedule 1	Large Municipal Residential Small Municipal Residential
Schedule 5: Relief from Schedule 2	Large Municipal Non-Residential Small Municipal Non-Residential Non-Municipal Year-Round Residential Non-Municipal Seasonal Residential Large Non-Municipal Non-Residential Small Non-Municipal Non-Residential

These two schedules provide a process whereby owners of systems with a ground water source may apply to the Director for relief from having to comply with the requirements for treatment equipment. They identify the required content of the written application as well as the public consultation process that must be followed. Note that this process is not available to systems that obtain their water from a surface water source or from a source that is ground water under the direct influence of surface water.

**OPERATIONAL CHECKS,
SAMPLING AND TESTING -
GENERAL**

Applies to:

Schedule 6: Operational Checks,
Sampling and Testing - General

All Systems

Schedule 6 sets out the general requirements that apply to all the specific operational checks and sampling and testing requirements set out in Schedules 7 to 15. This includes: location of samples; form of sampling; sample handling; requirements for continuous monitoring, as appropriate; requirements for turbidity testing and chlorine residual testing. It also requires that owners and operating authorities use an accredited laboratory for testing, with certain exceptions for operational checks.

OPERATIONAL CHECKS

Applies to:

Schedule 7: Operational Checks

Large Municipal Residential
Small Municipal Residential

Schedule 8: Operational Checks

Large Municipal Non-Residential
Non-Municipal Year-Round Residential
Large Non-Municipal Non-Residential

Schedule 9: Operational Checks

Small Municipal Non-Residential
Non-Municipal Seasonal Residential
Small Non-Municipal Non-Residential

Schedules 7, 8 and 9 set out the type and frequency of operational checks that must be conducted by the owner or operating authority of a drinking-water system, and the qualifications of the person that must conduct the tests.

**MICROBIOLOGICAL SAMPLING
AND TESTING***Applies to:*

Schedule 10: Microbiological Sampling and Testing	Large Municipal Residential
Schedule 11: Microbiological Sampling and Testing	Small Municipal Residential Large Municipal Non-Residential Non-Municipal Year-Round Residential Large Non-Municipal Non-Residential
Schedule 12: Microbiological Sampling and Testing	Small Municipal Non-Residential Non-Municipal Seasonal Residential Small Non-Municipal Non-Residential

Schedules 10 to 12 set out the microbiological sampling and testing regimes for the various categories of drinking-water systems.

CHEMICAL TESTING*Applies to:*

Schedule 13: Chemical Sampling and Testing	Large Municipal Residential Small Municipal Residential Large Municipal Non-Residential Non-Municipal Year-Round Residential Large Non-Municipal Non-Residential
Schedule 14: Chemical Sampling and Testing	Small Municipal Non-Residential Non-Municipal Seasonal Residential
Schedule 15: Chemical Sampling and Testing	Small Non-Municipal Non-Residential

Schedules 13 to 15 set out the detailed sampling and testing regimes for chemical parameters for the various categories of drinking-water systems.

ADVERSE TEST RESULTS*Applies to:*

Schedule 16: Reporting Adverse Test Results and Other Problems

All Systems

Schedule 16 sets out the situations where an owner of a drinking-water system or a laboratory must report adverse test results as required under section 18 of the SDWA, and the procedures that are to be followed. Under the Act, the laboratory and the owner are required to immediately inform the medical officer of health and the Ministry of the Environment. In addition, the regulation requires owners to report when a problem with disinfection is observed. The regulation also requires the owner and laboratory to notify the operator of each designated facility served by the system of adverse test results. The Regulation stipulates that immediate notice means speaking in person or over the telephone with a responsible individual. There are also requirements for written notice to follow within 24 hours and provisions for further written notice to be provided outlining the action taken and the results achieved in response to the adverse test result or other problem.

CORRECTIVE ACTION*Applies to:*

Schedule 17: Corrective Action

Large Municipal Residential

Schedule 18: Corrective Action

Small Municipal Residential
Large Municipal Non-Residential
Small Municipal Non-Residential
Non-Municipal Year-Round Residential
Non-Municipal Seasonal Residential
Large Non-Municipal Non-Residential
Small Non-Municipal Non-Residential

Schedules 17 and 18 set out the corrective action that owners of drinking-water systems must take when an adverse test result is obtained or a problem with disinfection is observed.

WARNING NOTICE	<i>Applies to:</i>
Schedule 19: Warning Notice of Potential Problems	Small Municipal Residential Large Municipal Non-Residential Small Municipal Non-Residential Non-Municipal Year-Round Residential Non-Municipal Seasonal Residential Large Non-Municipal Non-Residential Small Non-Municipal Non-Residential
Schedule 19 requires owners and operating authorities to post a warning notice any time they are required to take corrective actions that specify that users of the system be notified to use an alternate source of drinking water or to bring water to a rapid rolling boil for at least one minute before use. They are also required to post a warning notice any time they are not complying with the microbiological testing regime established under this Regulation or if they did not carry out the required corrective actions after an adverse test was obtained or a problem with disinfection was observed. In all cases, warning notices must be posted in prominent locations to alert users of the system.	
It is very important to understand that posting a warning notice under this Schedule does not provide an exemption from the requirements of this Regulation. All it means is that the Regulation requires this step to be taken to protect public health, the fundamental objective of this Regulation.	
Where owners fail to take this step, the authority exists for another person such as a public health inspector or a provincial officer to post the warning notice instead.	

ENGINEERS' REPORTS	<i>Applies to:</i>
Schedule 20: Engineers' Reports	Large Municipal Residential Small Municipal Residential
This schedule requires that a report by a professional engineer is periodically prepared in accordance with Ministry of the Environment requirements for municipal residential systems, and is provided to the Director in accordance with the timetable set out in the schedule.	

ENGINEERING EVALUATION REPORTS

Applies to:

Schedule 21: Engineering Evaluation Reports	Large Municipal Non-Residential Small Municipal Non-Residential Non-Municipal Year-Round Residential Non-Municipal Seasonal Residential Large Non-Municipal Non-Residential Small Non-Municipal Non-Residential
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Schedule 21 identifies when an engineering evaluation report by a professional engineer is required to be completed and sets out the required contents of that report. The owner must submit a notice to the Director, including a statement by the engineer indicating that the drinking-water system complies with the requirements for treatment equipment. The notice must be received by the Director shortly after the date the owner is required to install such equipment or makes an alteration to the equipment. There are exemptions for minor alterations.

SUMMARY REPORTS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Applies to:

Schedule 22: Summary Reports for Municipalities	Large Municipal Residential Small Municipal Residential
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This schedule establishes a timetable for summary reports to be developed related to municipal residential drinking-water systems. The contents of the report are outlined in the schedule. The report must be submitted to the municipal council, the members of a municipal service board or the board of directors of the corporation, as appropriate.

INORGANIC PARAMETERS

Applies to:

Schedule 23: Inorganic Parameters	All Systems
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List of inorganic parameters for purposes of the Regulation.

ORGANIC PARAMETERS*Applies to:*

Schedule 24: Organic Parameters

All Systems

List of organic parameters for purposes of the Regulation.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

There are eight additional regulations being introduced to deal with specific matters resulting from the new regulatory framework and the new **Drinking-Water Systems Regulation**. Four of these regulations are made under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* and four fall under the *Ontario Water Resources Act*.

In some cases, content from the draft regulation has had to be placed in a separate regulation (e.g., definition of “private residence”) and in other cases administrative regulations are required to implement the new regulatory framework (e.g., the revocation of O. Reg. 459/00 and O. Reg. 505/01). These eight regulations are briefly discussed below.

The four regulations under the SDWA that will come into force on June 1, 2003 are:

- *Ontario Drinking-Water Quality Standards Regulation - O. Reg. 169/03*
 - Lists the health-related standards that are used for the tests required in the Drinking-Water Systems Regulation, and also sets out the minimum standards for potable water in Ontario when it is required in any other legislation.
 - Schedule 1 contains microbiological standards
 - Schedule 2 contains chemical standards
 - Schedule 3 contains radiological standards
- *Definitions of Words and Expressions used in the Act Regulation - O. Reg. 171/03*
 - Includes definitions that apply to all regulations under the SDWA and that address the application of certain sections of the SDWA
 - Includes definitions of “private residence” and of “regulated non-municipal drinking-water system”
 - Sets out the definition of “regulated non-municipal drinking-water system” for various provisions of the SDWA (note that this term does not necessarily have the same meaning throughout the act; reference must be made to this regulation to determine what systems are subject to different provisions of the act that use this term)
- *Definitions of “Deficiency” and “Municipal Drinking-Water System” Regulation - O. Reg. 172/03*
 - A Minister’s regulation that defines what a deficiency is with respect to a drinking water system
 - Explicitly provides that a drinking-water system that is established by a private owner but will be conveyed to a municipal owner is a municipal drinking-water system for the purposes of the SDWA.
- *Schools, Private Schools and Day Nurseries Regulation - O. Reg. 173/03*
 - Sets requirements for weekly flushing of the plumbing, including record-keeping

The four regulations under the OWRA that will come into force on June 1, 2003 are:

- *Revoking O. Reg. 459/00 Regulation - O. Reg. 175/03*
 - Revokes O. Reg. 459/00
 - Also revokes related regulations, O. Reg. 506/01 and O. Reg. 213/02
- *Revoking O. Reg. 505/01 Regulation - O. Reg. 176/03*
 - Revokes O. Reg. 505/01
- *Amending O. Reg. 525/98 Regulation (Approval Exemptions) - O. Reg. 174/03*
 - Ensures that Section 52 of the OWRA no longer applies to water works that are considered a municipal drinking-water system or a regulated non-municipal drinking-water system under the SDWA
- *Amending O. Reg. 435/93 Regulation (Water Works and Sewage Works) - O. Reg. 177/03*
 - Ensures that the definitions of the different types of drinking-water systems used in the Drinking-Water Systems Regulation are integrated into O. Reg. 435/93